

MONTANANS ARE READY FOR A NEW DIRECTION

Under the leadership of President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress, life has become more difficult for Montanans. Here are some of the ways that life has become less affordable and secure in Montana. Democrats are working for real security, better jobs, college access for all, energy independence, affordable health care, and retirement security. It's time for a new direction in Montana.

INCOME: MONTANANS ARE EARNING LESS TODAY THAN THEY WERE FIVE YEARS AGO

- In 2000, the median income in Montana was \$36,757.¹
- In 2005, the median income in Montana was \$36,202, a drop of 1.5 percent.²

HEALTH CARE: THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED IN MONTANA HAS GROWN UNDER BUSH REPUBLICANS

- In 2000, Montana had 150,000 adults without insurance (16.7 percent).³
- In 2005, Montana had 162,000 adults without insurance (17.4 percent).⁴
- Montana had 15,841 children benefit from the SCHIP program.⁵

EDUCATION: THE COST OF COLLEGE CONTINUES TO RISE IN MONTANA

- In 2001, tuition at a public four-year institution in Montana was \$7,607.⁶ In 2005, it was \$9,867 a 30 percent increase.⁷
- In 2001, tuition at a private four-year institution in Montana was \$14,298.⁸ In 2005, it was \$17,918, a 25 percent increase.⁹
- Number of Montanans affected by the lapse of the College Tuition Tax Deduction – 11,411¹⁰
- Number of Montanans affected by the lapse of the Educator Expenses Tax Deduction – 10,342¹¹

GAS PRICES: THE HIGH COST OF GAS CONTINUES TO BE A BURDEN FOR MONTANA RESIDENTS

- In 2001, the average cost of gas in Montana was \$1.492 a gallon.¹²
- Today the average cost of gas in Montana is \$2.631 a gallon.¹³
- In 2001, the average annual cost of gas for a household in Montana was \$2,264.¹⁴
- Today the average annual cost of gas for a household in Montana is \$3,992, \$1,728 (76.3 percent) more than it was in 2001.¹⁵

SOCIAL SECURITY: MONTANANS DON'T WANT AN END TO SOCIAL SECURITY

- Number of Social Security Beneficiaries in Montana – 165,910¹⁶
- Average Monthly Benefit per Beneficiary in Montana – \$842¹⁷

IRAQ, TROOPS AND VETERANS: MONTANANS ON THE FRONT LINES

- Number of Montanans killed in Iraq – 12¹⁸
- Number of Montanans wounded in Iraq – 156¹⁹
- Number of Montanans killed in Afghanistan – 2²⁰
- Number of Montanans wounded in Afghanistan – 2²¹
- Number of Veterans in Montana – 102,605²²

REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR GIVEAWAYS FOR A WEALTHY MINORITY WHILE IGNORING MONTANA'S MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS

- Only 60 estates in Montana paid an Estate Tax in 2004.²³
- Only 25 estates in Montana will benefit from the Estate Tax cut in 2009.²⁴
- In contrast, 33,000 workers in Montana would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage.²⁵

CRIME: FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY POLICING DISAPPEARING

- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2002 – 11,142,325²⁶
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2006 – 2,129,250²⁷

TAX CUTS: BUSH TAX POLICIES BENEFIT THE WEALTHIEST MONTANANS

The Bush tax cuts have overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest Montanans.

- In 2001, the richest one percent of Montana residents each received an average of \$1,795 in tax cuts, while middle class Montana residents received only \$342.²⁸
- In 2006, the richest one percent of Montana residents will receive an average of \$22,064 in tax cuts, while middle class Montana residents will only receive \$617.²⁹
- In 2010, under the Bush tax plan, the richest one percent of Montana residents will each receive an average of \$42,336 in tax cuts, while middle class Montana residents will only receive \$776.³⁰

The richest Montanans receive an ever-growing share of the Bush tax cut.

- In 2001, the richest Montanans received 4.8 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class received 18.1 percent of the tax cut.³¹
- But, in 2006, the richest Montanans will get 19.7 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 11.0 percent of the tax cut.³²

- And, in 2010, the richest Montanans will get 34.8 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 12.7 percent of the tax cut.³³

Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Montanans.

- In 2010, the richest Montanans will receive an average of \$8,345 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That means the richest Montanans will be getting over 32.3 percent of all of the tax cut benefit.³⁴
- In contrast, in 2010, middle class Montanans will receive an average of \$137 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That's just 10.5 percent of the benefit going to the middle class.³⁵

SOURCES

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- 6: National Center for Education Statistics, "Digest of Education Statistics 2001"
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- 24: United for a Fair Economy [www.faireconomy.org/estatetax/ETDataByState.html]. This estimate is based upon current law where the estate tax threshold is slated to rise to 3.5 million in 2009.
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[\[http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbdata.pdf\]](http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbdata.pdf)

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